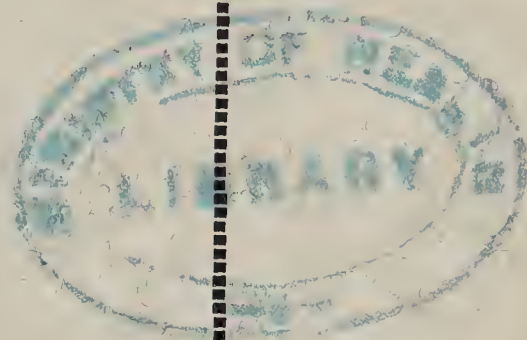


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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
OF THE
Warrington Rural District Council



John Walker & Co. Ltd.
Bewsey St. : Warrington

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**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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John Walker & Co. Ltd.
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WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1946

Chairman:

Mr. A. S. BREWER Rixton-with-Glazebrook

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. J. J. P. PALIN Great Sankey

Councillors:

Mr. T. FORSHAW, J.P. Burtonwood.
 Mr. H. B. WRIGHT, J.P. Cuerdley.
 Mr. W. H. COTTRELL Poulton-with-Fearnhead.
 Mr. J. C. WARBURTON Croft.
 Mr. E. SMETHURST, J.P. Winwick (St. Oswald's).
 Mr. R. HANKINSON „ (Houghton).
 Mr. E. R. E. THORNTON Penketh.
 (resigned on 31st March, 1946)
 Mr. J. UPTON Penketh.
 (from 1st April, 1946)
 Mr. R. RYDER Woolston.

WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1946

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,
WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the Year 1946 as follows:—

VITAL STATISTICS

POPULATION :

The Registrar General's figure is 22,890.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	19.8
--	------

Still Births—Legitimate	16
Illegitimate	Nil

There were 31 Live Illegitimate Births.

Birth Rate for England and Wales	19.1
--	------

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	9.6
--	-----

Death Rate per 1,000 for England and Wales	11.5
--	------

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000	
---	--

Live Births	68
-------------------	----

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000	
---	--

Live Births for England and Wales	43
---	----

Deaths from Puerperal Fever	Nil
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PHYSICAL FEATURES

The area is mostly flat with height above sea level varying from 20 feet to 125 feet, the latter at Croft and Winwick.

The prevailing winds are South-West and the rainfall is considerable. The soil is for the most part clay subsoil over or under sand and running sand, with a considerable portion to the East of the area consisting of peat moss to a depth of about 20 feet in places,

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The year can be termed satisfactory as regards notifications, the highest numbers being of Scarlet Fever 83, Measles 59, and Whooping Cough 57.

Tuberculosis Notifications	
Pulmonary	13
Non-Pulmonary	8
Total	<u>21</u>

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

It is again satisfactory to be able to report that there was no case of Diphtheria in a civilian during the year. The work of Immunisation receives constant attention and the following figures are not unsatisfactory, but we aim at still further improvement:—

Number of children immunised under 5 years of age during 1946	302
Number of children immunised over 5 years of age during 1946	41
Total	<u>343</u>

RAG CARTS

Even in these times it is not too much to suggest that these vehicles should be provided with a covering such as a waterproof sheet so that the articles of clothing, etc., which they carry need not be exposed, nor should they be re-handled until discharged at the receiving depot.

GENERAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

While there is the general food shortage and lack of variety in meals, the most serious deficiency is in *fats*, and there is a definite lowering of virility and “joy of life” and a very noticeable reduction of resistance to sub-acute troubles, i.e., catarrhs and rheumatism and various forms of neuritis, etc.

DAYLIGHT SAVING

Whatever can be said for one hour of “Summer time”—so called—the *second* hour was an unqualified mistake and it is a real relief to hear that it is not to be repeated.

HOUSING

The situation as regards housing has not materially changed since my last report, except for the worse as to materials and labour, and there is no sign of any improvement for some considerable time to come.

During the year, however, 69 houses built by private enterprise were completed and provide considerable relief in the present shortage. The Council have in hand a quite considerable scheme, and under this some will be completed and ready for occupation in 1947.

The position is so uncertain that, anxious as the Council is to provide a goodly number as soon as possible, there can be no definite promises made.

With regard to repairs, the position is just as difficult and far from satisfactory. The minimum is all that we can ask or hope for in these times.

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I beg to acknowledge my grateful thanks and appreciation of the valuable and kindly co-operation of all the Council's officials and their staffs.

I beg to remain,

Yours very faithfully,

JAS. CULLEN,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

STATISTICS

Area (acres)	22,840
Estimated population—1946	22,890
Number of inhabited houses	6,136
Rateable Value	£157,623
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£637

VITAL STATISTICS

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	215	208	423
Illegitimate	19	12	31
Total	234	220	454
Still Births	8	8	16
Deaths	120	102	222

Population for Birth Rate and Death Rate, 22,890.

	Per 1,000 of estimated population				Maternal Mortality rate		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births
	Live birth rate	Crude death rate	Death rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system	Death rate from Cancer	Per 1,000 live births	Per 1,000 total live and still births	
Mean of 5 years—							
1941-1945	20.3	9.8	0.29	1.38	5.17	4.99	54
Year 1945	20.1	11.6	0.41	1.74	Nil	Nil	63
1946	19.8	9.6	0.43	1.66	4.40	4.25	68
Increase or decrease in 1946 on 5 years average							
1941-1945	0.5	0.2	0.14	0.28	0.77	0.74	14
previous year ..	0.3	2.0	0.02	0.08	0.40	4.25	5

CAUSES OF DEATH

ALL CAUSES	Males 120	Females 102
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	1	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	8	2
Tuberculosis—other forms	2	1
Syphilis	—	—
Influenza	2	1
Measles	—	—
Polio-myelitis and polio encephalitis	—	—
Infec. encephalitis	—	—
Cancer—all forms	23	15
Diabetes	—	2
Intra-Cran : Vase : lesions	6	11
Heart disease	22	24
Other circulatory diseases	4	4
Bronchitis	12	7
Pneumonia	8	2
Other respiratory diseases	—	3
Peptic ulcer	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	3	2
Diarrhoea (2 years and over)	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—
Other digestive diseases	2	3
Nephritis	3	3
Puerperal sepsis	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	2
Premature birth	2	4
Other causes, at birth	3	6
Suicide	2	—
Road Traffic Act	1	1
Other violent causes	4	2
Other violence	12	7

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1946

There were 222 cases notified during the year, excluding Tuberculosis. This table shows the number of Infectious Diseases notified and the number removed to hospital. There were :—

DISEASE	Total cases of all ages	Age U.K.	1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over	Total cases removed to Hospital	C.M.H. Winwick	Civ.
Scarlet Fever	83	..	...	2	2	2	7	52	14	...	2	2	...	...	46	...	12
Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	17
Malaria	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2
Measles	59	...	1	3	10	9	11	25	..	...	...	...	...	..	3	...	7
Whooping Cough	57	1	3	7	14	10	5	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	10	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	4	...	5	2
Puerperal Fever	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	3	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1
Potromyelitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Dysentery	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	8
Erysipelas	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...
	222	3	4	12	27	21	24	95	15	1	6	4	4	6	60	6	49

TUBERCULOSIS

YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 .....	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
1 .....	...	1	1	1	...	...	..	...
5 .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10 .....	...	...	...	1	...	..	...	...
15 .....	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
20	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	...
25	2	5	...	...	3	...	...	...
35 .....	..	1	...	...	2	1	1	...
45	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
55 .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and over ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Totals	4	9	4	4	7	2	2	—
Grand Totals ..	13		8		9		2	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR
THE AREA

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

Medical Officer of Health	Dr. J. Cullen (part-time).
Chief Sanitary Inspector	Mr. W. A. Morrison.
Additional Sanitary Inspector	Mr. S. Reeves.
Pupil Inspectors	Mr. A. Murray.
	Mr. L. Foxley
	(H.M. Forces)
	Mr. G. Sixsmith
	(H.M. Forces)

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

These Centres are under the supervision of the Lancashire County Council and are available for residents in the area as follows:—

Burtonwood : Church Hall, Thursday, 10—12 a.m.

Penketh and Great Sankey : Methodist School, Penketh; Monday, 1.30—3.30 p.m.

Poulton and Woolston : Padgate Methodist School, Wednesday, 1.30—3.30 p.m.

Rixton-with-Glazebrook : Longfield Lodge, Cadishead; Irlam Hall, Cadishead; alternate Wednesdays, 2—4 p.m.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied by the Warrington and Liverpool Corporations to most of the area.

The testing and sampling of this water is done by the supplying authorities.

Steady progress has been made in laying on of a piped supply to those houses which were within a reasonable distance of a water main. There now remain only 32 houses which have not a piped water supply. Of these houses, several are in very inaccessible situations and, in some cases, are in very poor condition structurally. While at the moment it does not appear opportune, due to the general shortage of materials and labour, and taking into consideration that some of these houses may be demolished within the near future, it is to be hoped that at the earliest practical moment steps will be taken either to have a piped water supply laid on or, where the case requires it, to have the house demolished. Sampling of well water has continued, 12 bacteriological examinations and 7 chemical analyses having been made. The results have been generally unsatisfactory and, as a temporary measure, several wells have been cleansed in order to try and improve the supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No change has taken place during the year in the treatment of sewage in the area. At Burtonwood, treatment is by precipitation and willow beds, and at one estate in Glazebrook a new tank and rotary filter has been constructed. In the remainder of the area, septic tanks are in use, the effluent, very often unsatisfactory, being discharged into ditches and streams.

A considerable amount of time is being taken in attempting to persuade owners of septic tanks to sign the necessary Order forms to enable the Surveyor's Department to carry out the cleansing work and, where this method fails, formal notices have to be served in order that progress may be made. This procedure is cumbersome, but perhaps the worst feature of these tanks is the fact that they are being emptied manually—a process which, to say the least, is hardly in keeping with modern hygiene. There is no doubt that the only final solution of this problem will be a comprehensive sewerage scheme for the whole of the district.

It is noticed that Dr. Sephton, in 1902, reported that a thorough system of drainage was required in the Parish of Fearnhead, and that in 1909 the question of sewerage system at Poulton-with-Fearnhead had apparently become urgent. Let us hope that this urgency can be now extended to the whole of the district and that it will not be another 40 years before we will be able to carry out this so necessary work.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

For many years past the previous Medical Officers of Health have reported that the rivers and streams in the area were heavily polluted. No one can disagree with that statement to-day. Nothing can be added to what has been suggested in the past, except to say that if these watercourses had not been available no doubt the number of pail closets in the area would have been considerably higher.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AT THE END OF 1946

It is a pleasing feature to note that almost all privy middens have now been converted either into pail closets or water closets. There are now approximately a total of 1,450 pail closets in the area.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES

Sankey Nursery is now open in the daytime only.

Padgate Nursery is now being used by the Lancashire Education Committee as a junior school.

HOSPITALS SERVING THE DISTRICT

The hospitals serving the district for cases of Infectious Disease are the Warrington and Newton-le-Willows Isolation Hospitals.

DISINFESTATION

Six houses were disinfested during the year by means of spraying with Zaldecide containing D.D.T. The use of D.D.T. should simplify disinfestation work as the crystals deposited retain their effect for some weeks. This feature ensures that insects in the process of hatching-out are killed as soon as they reach the crawling stage.

DISINFECTION

The number of houses disinfected after Infectious Disease was 86. For cases of Scarlet Fever, disinfection is carried out by spraying with Formaldehyde, and disinfectant is supplied to the householder so that the bedding and room can be washed in a solution of disinfectant.

For Diphtheria and Tuberculosis cases, the bedding, etc., is treated in the steam disinfector at Warrington Isolation Hospital.

SCHOOLS

All schools are provided with water from the mains supply, but several schools are still fitted with pail closets. There is no doubt that conversions to water closets should be carried out as a necessary improvement, but in view of the lack of suitable sewers this work would no doubt prove difficult.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

Few complaints have been received regarding the Offensive Trades carried out in the district. Regular visits and inspections are carried out to ensure their cleanliness and proper working.

FACTORIES

Factories have been regularly visited and particular attention has been paid to their canteens. Instructions have been given to the manageresses of each canteen to ensure that a suitable hygienic standard is kept. In several cases the arrangements for the storage of food have been greatly improved. Attention has also been drawn to the fact that canteen workers must be clean and must not handle or prepare food while suffering from any septic condition. Improvements continue to be made to conveniences, but in most cases delay is caused in carrying out the necessary work due to the shortage of building materials.

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

Caravans were licensed for two monthly periods and regular inspections made to ensure that good sanitary conditions were observed.

PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

A very progressive step was made this year when it was decided to replace dustbins and sanitary pails as necessary, and to put the charge to the General Rate Fund. This obviates an enormous amount of work by inspectorial staff and, furthermore, from a sanitary point of view ensures that refuse while stored near the home shall be kept in a cleanly manner. It is so obviously bad business to spend large sums of money on special type cleansing vehicles and yet leave the method of storage at the home to the whims of property owners that it is surprising why this step has not become more common with Local Authorities.

The collection service is still partly by contract and partly by direct labour, but the time has come when as soon as the necessary equipment is available the whole of this work should be directly controlled by the Council. Even prior to the war it was a recognised hygienic practice that domestic refuse should be removed at least once per seven days. The hot summer experienced this year has emphasized that all waste matters should be removed from the home more frequently than once per fortnight.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Full details of all inspections made are shown in the table at the end of the report.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

Informal action has been taken under the Shops Act, 1934, re the temperatures and ventilation of shops, and certain improvements have resulted.

CAMPING SITES

No camping sites were licensed for use during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Informal action was taken to remedy nuisances caused by excessive smoke from factories—and considering all the difficulties, such as poor quality fuel and the delay in effecting structural alterations, close co-operation was obtained from the factory managers concerned and definite improvements were obtained.

RODENT CONTROL

The main feature of this work was the special scheme which was inaugurated at the instigation of the Ministry of Food. This scheme, for which special grants were available, was commenced in October and had to be completed by 31st March, 1947. Operatives were engaged and trained, and the scheme commenced on the lines laid down by the Ministry. A search of all household, business and factory premises was made, and where infestation was discovered on household premises poisoning campaigns were immediately commenced. Where infestations were discovered in factory or business premises, notice was served on the occupier, and in all cases treatment was carried out by the Council's operatives, the cost being recovered in full. Test baiting of the sewers in the area was carried out, but in no area was there any obvious sign of infestation.

This duty is one for which a Local Authority is responsible, and it is obvious that proper regard will have to be paid to its responsibilities.

HOME HELPS

The Council has accepted delegated powers from the County Council to operate a scheme within the area. Briefly, the scheme is to provide domestic assistance in the home where the housewife is ill or has gone into hospital, maternity cases, or where a person is aged and infirm. The wages of the help are paid by the Council and reclaimed from the County. The person to whom help is given has to pay for the services rendered according to a scale fixed on their incomes; in some cases, in fact, no payment will be made at all. The scheme is one which is so obviously useful that it is to be hoped it will be organised on a sound basis and that full advantage will be taken of it by the general public.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

A more regular and systematic inspection was carried out of cow-sheds and dairies and cowkeepers were circularised of the principle requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

There was a notable improvement in the cleanliness of cowsheds as a result of this work and, although some of the premises do not comply structurally with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order, the position generally was very fair.

Number of Producers registered	65
Number of Retail Dairymen registered	21
Number of Producers of Accredited Milk	15
Number of Bacteriological samples taken	67
Number of Samples unsatisfactory	22
Number of Samples examined for T.B. Bacilli	16
Number of Samples found to contain T.B. Bacilli	1

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936

Number of persons licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested milk ...	1
Number of persons licensed to sell Pasteurised milk	5
Number of Supplementary licenses	4

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Slaughtering is still centralised and is carried out in the Warrington County Borough. Pigs slaughtered for "household" consumption were inspected where possible, but owing to the scattered nature of the area it was not possible to carry out inspections in every case. The number of slaughtermen licensed in the area is now 8.

The following amounts of food were surrendered as being unfit for human consumption, but in some cases quantities were salvaged by the Ministry of Food Salvage Department :—

17 lbs. Custard Powder.	4 lbs. Jam.
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Dried Egg.	10 lbs. Cake Powder.
26 lbs. Shredded Suet.	$12\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Risole Powder.
$54\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Cheese.	84 pkts. Scone Flour.
50 lbs. Dried Peaches.	4 tins Evaporated Milk.
$11\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Sausage Meat.	120 tins Meat Stew.
8 lbs. Butter.	30 tins Vegetables.
8 lbs. Margarine.	1,113 tins Fruit.
4 lbs. Lard.	1 Sheep carcase—43 lbs.
16 lbs. Marmalade.	

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the details of food samples taken under the above Act.

Forty samples were obtained, of which were—

25 Milk.	4 Butter.
1 Cod Liver Oil.	1 Ice-cream.
1 Cod Liver Oil Emulsion.	3 Sugar.
2 Dried Fruit.	3 Boric Ointments.

All these samples were found to be genuine with the exception of 3 Milks, which were deficient of 8 per cent. fat, deficient of 10 per cent. fat, and deficient of 7.7 per cent. solids-not-fat and contained 7 per cent. extraneous water, respectively. In each case further samples were obtained, all of which were genuine.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS, 1946.

Water Supply	69
Drainage	193
Stables and Piggeries	7
Offensive Trades	13
Fried Fish Shops	9
Dirty Premises	9
Conversions to W.C.'s	3
„ Pails	94
Tents, Vans and Sheds	16
Factories	43
Bakehouses	10
Petroleum	2
Refuse Collection	176
„ Disposal	142
Rats and Mice	67
Smoke observations	1
Schools	28
Shops Act	2
Defective Pails	26
„ Bins	125
Pails provided	8
Bins provided	6
A.R.P. visits	6
Salvage	71
Miscellaneous	92
Home Helps	10

UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

No. of Houses inspected	222
Visits paid to above houses	614

UNDER HOUSING ACTS

Section 9—

No. of Houses inspected	22
Visits paid to above houses	26

Section 11—

No. of Houses inspected	3
Visits paid to above houses	5

VERMINOUS PREMISES

No. of Houses inspected	6
No. of Houses disinfested	6
Houses measured	3

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Inquiries in cases of I.D.	66
Visits re disinfection	86
Miscellaneous I.D. visits	23

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOOD

Swine	1
Butchers' Shops	20
Farms	18
Cowsheds	94
Dairies and Milkshops	82
Restaurants	24
Street Vendors and Hawkers	5

VISITS IN CONNECTION WITH SAMPLING

Milk—Bacteriological	72
Milk—Tubercle Bacilli	16
Water—Bacteriological	12
Water—Chemical	7
Miscellaneous food visits	28

Total	<u>2,432</u>
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